



SUSANA MARTINEZ
Governor

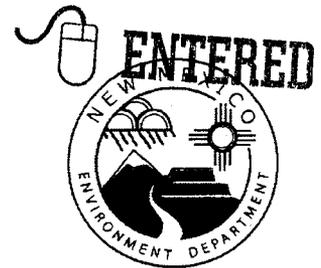
JOHN A. SANCHEZ
Lieutenant Governor

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NEW MEXICO
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Hazardous Waste Bureau

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DAVE MARTIN
Cabinet Secretary

BUTCH TONGATE
Deputy Secretary

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

March 19, 2012

George J. Rael
Environmental Operations Manager
Los Alamos Site Office
Department of Energy
3747 West Jemez Road, MS A316
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Michael Graham
Associate Director Environmental Programs
Los Alamos National Security, L.L.C.
P.O. Box 1663, MS 991
Los Alamos, NM 87545

**RE: SECOND DIRECTION TO MODIFY
RESPONSE TO DIRECTION TO MODIFY FOR REQUEST TO ABANDON
BOREHOLE 50-24817 AT MATERIAL DISPOSAL AREA C, SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT UNIT 50-009
LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY (LANL)
EPA ID #NM0890010515
HWB-LANL-11-050**

Dear Messrs. Rael and Graham:

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has received the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the Los Alamos National Security L.L.C.'s (LANS) (collectively, the Permittees) *Response to Direction to Modify for Request to Abandon Borehole 50-24817 at Material Disposal Area C, Solid Waste Management Unit 50-009* (Response), dated March 14, 2012 and referenced by EP2012-0072. NMED has reviewed the Response and hereby issues this Second Direction to Modify (DTM).

In the DTM, NMED stated that it had "evaluated the estimated costs of the Permittees' proposed abandonment by cement grout injection relative to the option of replacing the surface casing. NMED has concluded that it is more cost effective to replace the surface casing of borehole 50-24817 rather than to abandon the boring at this time."

In the Response, the Permittees state that on a March 7, 2012 telephone conference, "NMED agreed that abandoning the borehole is appropriate and requested that LANS and DOE submit a response to the direction to modify letter documenting the decision." This is not accurate.



Messrs. Rael and Graham
March 19, 2012
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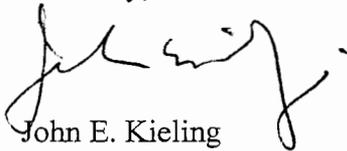
On the March 7, 2012 telephone conference, the Permittees asserted that abandonment of the well would be more cost effective than replacing the surface casing, in contrast with NMED's evaluation. NMED specifically requested that the Permittees submit a response including the cost basis for their decision. The Permittees did not provide any cost information in their Response; therefore, NMED has no basis to alter the conclusion that replacement of the surface completion will cost significantly less than abandonment of the borehole.

The Permittees must replace the surface casing of borehole 50-24817 at Material Disposal Area C, in lieu of abandonment, as previously directed by **April 13, 2012**. A flush mounted casing or installation of a below-grade traffic-rated vault will reduce the likelihood of future damage. The funds saved by implementing this more cost effective solution should be diverted to the groundwater monitoring associated with the Interim Facility-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Plan.

The Permittees must submit a letter describing the repairs made to the surface casing by **April 27, 2012**. All submittals (including maps) must be in the form of two paper copies and one electronic copy in accordance with Section XI.A of the Order.

Please contact Ben Wear at (505) 476-6041 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John E. Kieling
Acting Chief
Hazardous Waste Bureau

cc:

D. Cobrain, NMED HWB
N. Dhawan, NMED HWB
B. Wear, NMED HWB
J. Kulis, NMED HWB
S. Yanicak, NMED DOE OB, MS J993
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